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REMARKS

Claims 2-10 are all of the claims currently pending in the application. Claims 7-10 are allowed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 2-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format. Although Applicant continues to believe that claim 1 is clearly not described in the cited prior art reference, Applicant has decided to rewrite these claims in independent format in order to expedite prosecution.

It is noted that Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Regarding the prior art rejection, claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 10-329369 to Ogura. Cancellation of this claim renders this rejection moot.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

The Examiner objected to Figures 12-16 for failing to include a "PRIOR ART" notation. Applicant believes that the attached drawing changes address this objection. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 2-10, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheets include changes to Figures 12-16 to label these figures as "PRIOR ART". These sheets replace the original sheets which contain Figures 12-16.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

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below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,



Date: 12/09/04

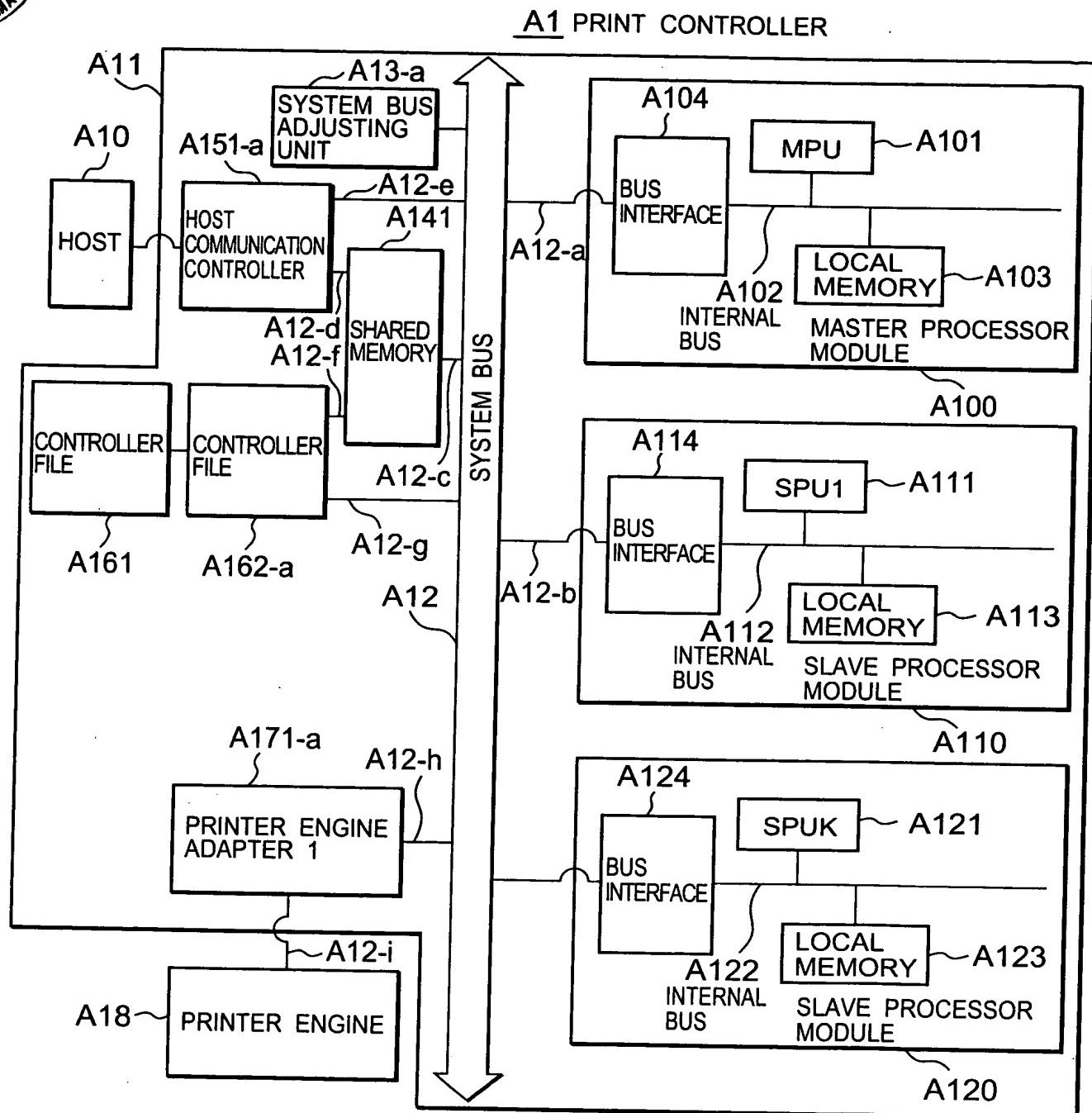
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(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254

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FIG.12 (PRIOR ART)

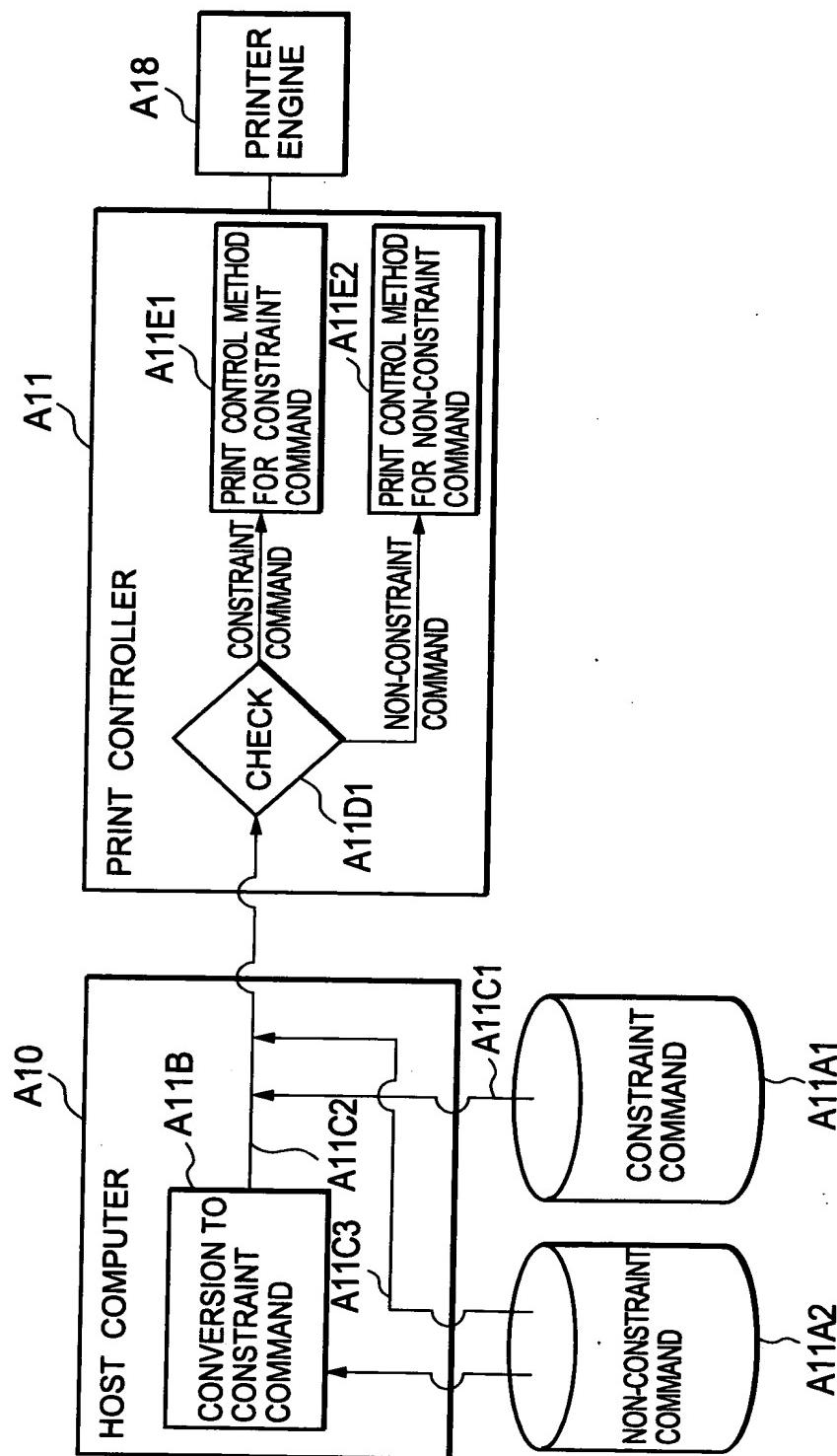


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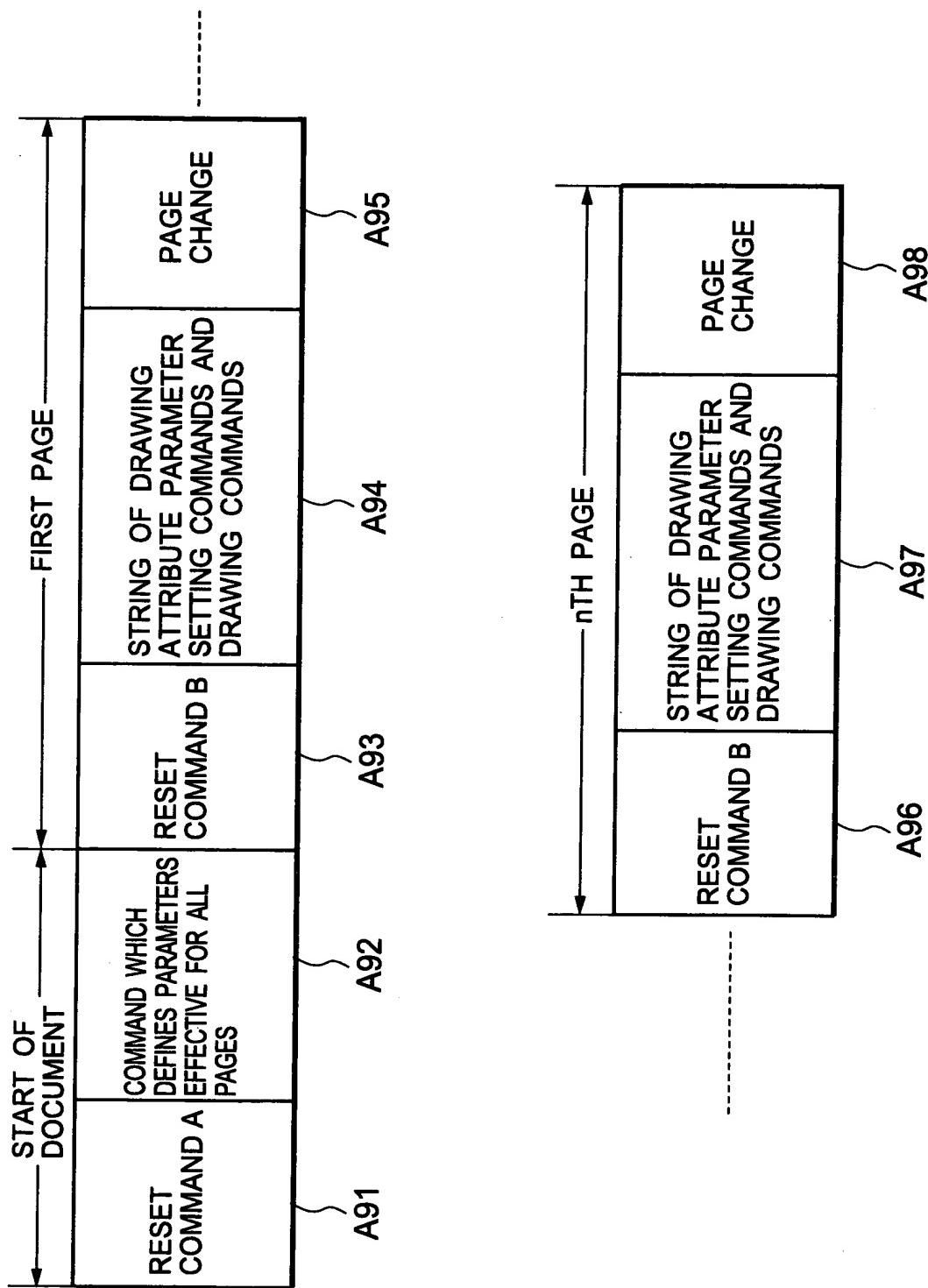
FIG.13 (PRIOR ART)



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FIG. 14 (PRIOR ART)

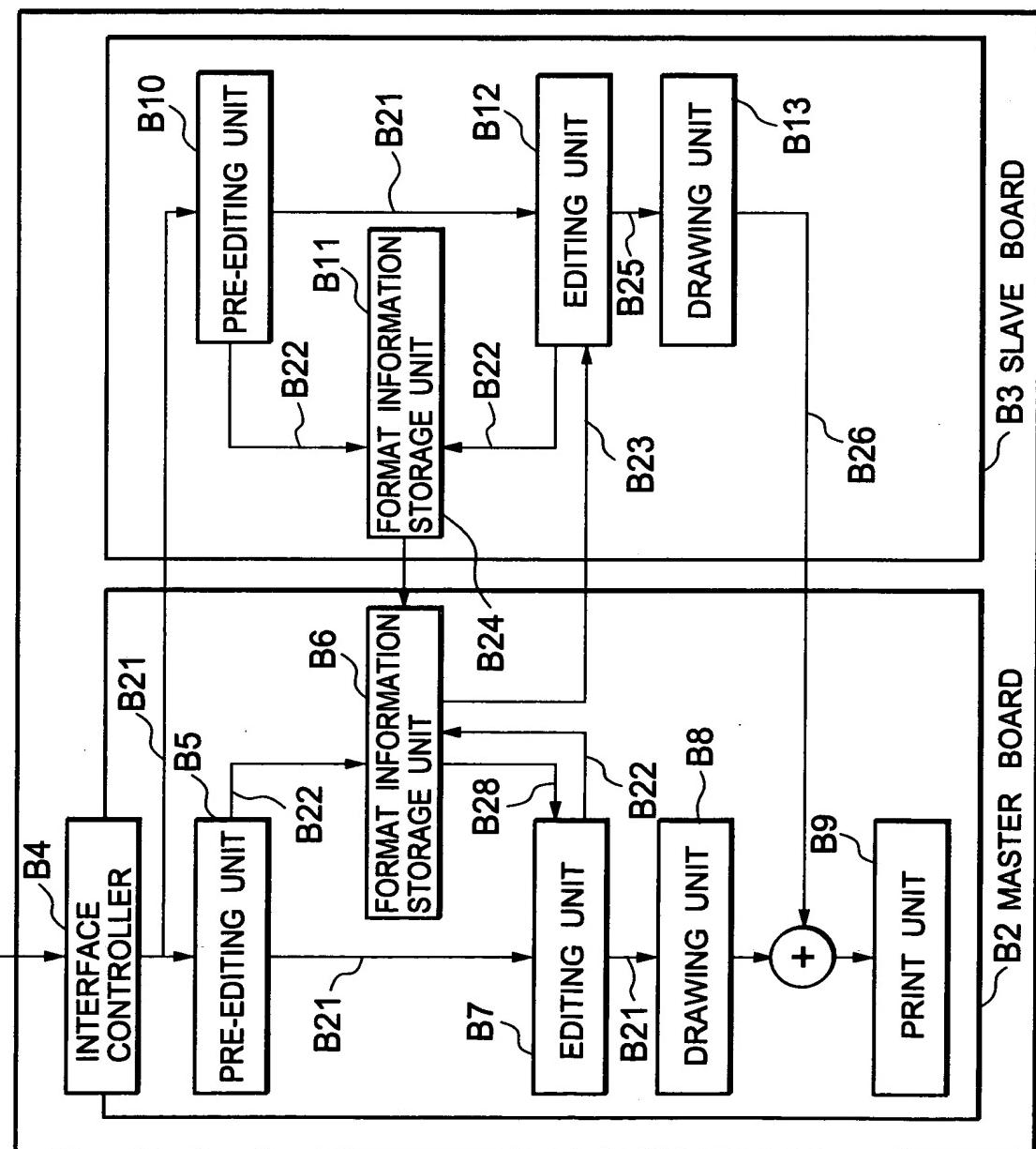


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FIG.15 (PRIOR ART)

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FIG.16 (PRIOR ART)

